II. REMARKS

Claims 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, 39 and 40 were pending and recently examined by the Office in the subject application. Claims 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 27, 28, 32, 39 and 40 are in condition for allowance.

In the present Reply, claims 20, 23 and 24 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to Applicants' rights to file the same or similar claims in a later filed application claiming the priority of the subject application. The cancellation of these claims is not intended by Applicants to be a dedication to the public of the subject matter or these claims or their equivalents. The cancellation of these claims was not made earlier as it is Applicants' belief that these claims present patentable subject matter.

In view of the preceding amendments and the remarks that follow, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 20, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, and in a sincere effort to place this case in condition for allowance, these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Removal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the cancellation of claims 20, 23 and 24, a Notice of Allowability for claims 27, 28, 32, 39 and 40 is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would advance prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number provided below. In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and/or the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 7003392001.

June 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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